FW: More on the highway brawl

From: Marlin Degrand <marlin.degrand@gov.ab.ca>
To: john.g.ferguson@rcmp-grc.gc.ca; peter.tewfik@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Cc: Dwayne Lakusta <dwayne.lakusta@gov.ab.ca>; Peter Lemieux <peter.lemieux@gov.ab.ca>; "Zablocki, Curtis" <curtis.zablocki@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>
Date: Tue, 01 Feb 2022 14:46:31 -0700

I assume you are well aware of this incident folks but out of an abundance of caution am sharing the same.

Classification: Protected A

From: Peter Lemieux <peter.lemieux@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Marlin Degrand <Marlin.Degrand@gov.ab.ca>; Bill McAuley <bill.mcauley@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: More on the highway brawl

Classification: Protected A

From: Dana Belyk <Dana.Belyk@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: February 1, 2022 2:15 PM
To: Peter Lemieux <peter.lemieux@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: FW: Sheriffs Branch SITREP (ROUTINE) UPDATE #5 - Feb 1, 2022 - SHP District 6 - Coutts Border Blockade and Protest

Dana Belyk
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Classification: Protected A

From: Bob Andrews <Bob.Andrews@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Farooq Sheikh <Farooq.Sheikh@gov.ab.ca>; Rob Lamont <Robert.Lamont@gov.ab.ca>; Greg Medley <Greg.Medley@gov.ab.ca>; Aaron Coon <aaron.coon@gov.ab.ca>; Matt McCorquodale <Matt.McCorquodale@gov.ab.ca>; Kathy Golem <Kathy.Golem@gov.ab.ca>
Cc: Dana Belyk <Dana.Belyk@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: Sheriffs Branch SITREP (ROUTINE) UPDATE #5 - Feb 1, 2022 - SHP District 6 - Coutts Border Blockade and Protest

Further to the SITREP, SHP sheriffs and RCMP members were conducting a roadblock southbound at the intersection Hwy 14 and Hwy 501 (last highway north of Coutts). A group of motorists (protest sympathisers) attempting to travel south to Coutts have been held up at that location for the past number of hours. The crowd had become increasingly hostile at had made threats against the members at the checkpoint, to the point where they surrounded the members. The members called for backup. Prior to the arrival of other members, the protesters pushed through the barricades with their vehicles and somehow collided with vehicles travelling northbound on Highway 14. It is not known who was operating the northbound vehicle (protesters leaving Coutts or citizens) The collisions resulted in brawls that ended up in the ditch requiring intervention by RCMP and SHP members. RCMP had asked earlier today for assistance by providing commercial vehicle trained sheriffs with Class 1 licences. We have identified 8 SHP members with Class 1 drivers licences and are awaiting further direction from the RCMP prior to deploying these members to Coutts.

Bob

Classification: Protected A

From: Bob Andrews
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Farooq Sheikh <Farooq.Sheikh@gov.ab.ca>; Rob Lamont <Robert.Lamont@gov.ab.ca>; Greg Medley <Greg.Medley@gov.ab.ca>; Aaron Coon <aaron.coon@gov.ab.ca>; Matt McCorquodale <Matt.McCorquodale@gov.ab.ca>; Kathy Golem <Kathy.Golem@gov.ab.ca>
Cc: Dana Belyk (Dana.Belyk@gov.ab.ca) <Dana.Belyk@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: FW: Sheriffs Branch SITREP (ROUTINE) UPDATE #5 - Feb 1, 2022 - SHP District 6 - Coutts Border Blockade and Protest

SITREP update below. I am in contact with Insp Delaney. No injuries to SHP officers.

Bob

Classification: Protected A

From: Jason Delaney <Jason.Delaney@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Rick Gardner <Rick.Gardner@gov.ab.ca>; Rob Sapinsky <Rob.Sapinsky@gov.ab.ca>
Cc: Bob Andrews <Bob.Andrews@gov.ab.ca>; John Jackson <John.Jackson@gov.ab.ca>; Trevor Miller <Trevor.Miller@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: Sheriffs Branch SITREP (ROUTINE) UPDATE #5 - Feb 1, 2022 - SHP District 6 - Coutts Border Blockade and Protest

UPDATE #5

DATE/TIME: February 1, 2022 @ 1326hrs.

LOCATION: Coutts Border Crossing/Coutts Vehicle Inspection Station (VIS), Coutts, Alberta

ISSUE: "Lockdown Coutts Border" blockade and COVID19-related mandate protest.

BACKGROUND:

- Approximately 2,000 vehicles are amassing near the Coutts border protesting pandemic-related vaccine mandates and government restriction
- Members of the Sheriff Highway Patrol (SHP) have been reassigned to Coutts to assist RCMP, CP Police Service and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) with public safety and traffic related concerns on the highway and at the Coutts VIS.
- Initial reports indicated protesters were cooperative and peaceful while also allowing traffic to flow freely through the area.

CURRENT STATUS:

- SHP members earlier assisted in the search and recovery of a 4 year-old child that wandered away from his family and became lost. The child was found safe and returned to his family.
- Sheriffs have assisted RCMP as some of their members have experienced swarming incidents with protesters.
- SHP members have assisted RCMP in diffusing several altercations between protesters and members of the motoring public as tensions are heightening between the two groups.
- RCMP Air Services has been deployed to assist with efforts. They have since cleared the area.
- Volker Stevin are on site and Hwy 4 has been closed due to a large number of abandoned vehicles on the highway in both directions. There is no capacity to remove all the abandoned commercial vehicles at this time.
- Some demonstrators have left the area for the evening, abandoning their commercial vehicles as they are effectively blocked in and unable to move.
- RCMP have deployed the Special Tactical Operations (STO) unit to the area and are operating out of the Coutts VIS. A large number of RCMP members are now on site.
- RCMP have deployed a full Emergency Response Team (ERT) to the Coutts area.
- Intel reports indicate members of the protester community have armed themselves with firearms and have produced them to law-abiding motorists in threatening manners.
- Reports on social media of planned "swarmings" on police officers are surfacing. Plans of "luring" and "trapping" officers in large groups.
- SHP resources have been deployed to the Carway and Del Bonita crossings to assist RCMP with large convoys.
- Protester blockades are forming at various points along Hwy 4 at highways 501 and 845. Reports indicate some protesters are circumventing barricades established by the RCMP (supported by members of the Sheriffs Branch) and they are preparing to use force to cross manned checkpoints.
- Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Sheriffs are on scene assisting operations led by the RCMP.
- A team of SHP and RCMP members manning a checkpoint at Hwy 4 and Hwy 501 were surrounded by protesters in commercial and private vehicles. Protesters breached barricades and attempted to ram officers on scene. No staff were injured and narrowly escaped injury and collision. Protesters continued travelling South bound in the North bound lanes where they collided with other motorists on the highway. Assaults between protesters and motorists then ensued requiring intervention.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- Inspector Delaney has deployed additional resources to the area to assist the current deployment.

- Additional SHP resources from the area have been reassigned to assist for the next 5 days (or until the situation resolves).

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS:

- N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

- Inspector Jason Delaney, SHP District #6

APPROVED BY:

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Classification: Protected A